

# Superintendent's Report to DPAC

## November 16, 2015

---

### Student Services

**Teaching and Learning in Diverse Classrooms:** *A Blueprint for Learner Success is now complete in draft form and the Board of Education is asking for further feedback from educational partners. A feedback survey will be posted soon on the District website along with a copy of the draft report.*

*As you know, the purpose of the Teaching and Learning in Diverse Classrooms Working Group was for the Board of Education to engage educational partners in a discussion to inform a strategic district plan focussed on student learning success, especially in the delivery of quality educational programming and meeting the needs of diverse learners in the classroom. The Working Group has done a literature review of effective educational practices, drafted Belief Statements centred on teaching and learning in diverse classrooms and has articulated some draft priorities and action plans for moving forward. As part of this process, two separate “touch back” sessions were held last spring with each educational partner group for broader input and feedback.*

**Parents’ Networking Sessions:** *We had a very successful session on October 28<sup>th</sup> which was facilitated by District Vice-Principals, Chris Nicholson and Maryam Naser. The focus was on the Individual Education Plan process and an overview of the assessment process. This session was intended for parents who are new to these processes.*

*The next Parents' Networking Session is scheduled for Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup> and will focus on the same topics as October 28<sup>th</sup> except that the intended audience is parents of students who will soon be transitioning from school into the community.*

*On February 17<sup>th</sup>, Maryam Naser will talk about the Ministry of Education’s new curriculum that will be implemented in all schools in BC starting in September 2016. She will provide an overview of the highlights of the new curriculum.*

*All sessions take place in the École Glenbrook Middle School library at 7 p.m.*

**Parents’ Night Out:** *The Parents' Night Out committee was formed in 2011 in response to the need for parent education around topics that impact children and youth living in New Westminster. The founding committee member groups are: New Westminster Teachers Union, New Westminster Police Department, School District No. 40 Community Schools, School District No. 40 Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program, Fraserside Community Services and New Westminster Youth Services. Family Services of Greater Vancouver, the Ministry of Children, Family Development and the District Parent Advisory Council have since joined.*

*The school district has taken on a big part of the coordination role, but every member agency contributes something (guest speakers, space, food, advertising, child care, etc).*

*There are usually between two to five parent evenings a year. Topics have included sexual health, drugs and alcohol, behavior and nutrition, gang and youth violence, bullying, internet safety, understanding the teenage brain, attachment parenting, suicide prevention, and healthy adolescent development.*

*The majority of the sessions are free although we have charged a small admission to cover the cost of speakers like Barry McDonald. DPAC has paid for some tickets for events and this has been very successful in providing an opportunity for parents to attend.*

*On January 28<sup>th</sup>, Jesse Miller has been scheduled to speak on the topic of media awareness at the Justice Institute. For more information on Jesse, please visit the following website: <http://www.mediatedreality.com/>*

## **Human Resources Department**

*The month of October was a busy one. With early school year flu/cold season upon us, we faced a need to expand our numbers of available casual (CUPE) and on-call teaching (NWTU) replacement staff. Interviewing many prospective candidates allowed us to select those most suited to our district's particular needs.*

*The HR, Payroll and Finance departments have been working together to streamline the process employees are required to follow in applying for leaves of absence. The new "LeaveWeb" system will make leave applications paperless. LeaveWeb enables SD40 employees to make application online, with the application routed through the approval process ultimately returning to the employee as approved or not approved. HR met with both unions on this issue in October, and a presentation was made to the CUPE Local 409 and the NWTU presidents offering them an online "walk through" of the revised process. We hope to have a complete conversion completed by December. This allows employees time to become familiar with the new process.*

## **Facilities and Operations Department**

*The custodial department has been operating on their routine schedule. Mr. Mark Layzell, a long-time employee of the district, has been appointed Manager of Operations and will be responsible for the operations of the custodial department. Our custodians received equipment training and presentations on the future of the cleaning equipment industry as part of a professional development opportunity in October.*

*The maintenance department has been engaged in Annual Facility Grant works as well as some remediation of ceilings finishes in rooms at NWSS that were damaged due to water leakage earlier in the school year. All work has now been completed on this. Work on lighting upgrades is continuing and is almost complete at Lord Kelvin and we will soon be shifting our efforts to Lord Tweedsmuir. The outside grounds staff are preparing for inclement weather procedures with roof drain clearing, sump cleaning and ice and snow equipment preparations.*

Respectfully,

Pat Duncan